

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 03051 252333Z

14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /082 W

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R 251647Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5955

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3051

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: LABOR LEADER STORTI CONFIRMS RETIREMENT

REF: ROME 2942

1. IN THE FEBRUARY 25 MEETING OF CISL'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, SECRETARY GENERAL BRUNO STORTI CONFIRMED HE WOULD NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION AT THE CISL CONGRESS NEXT YEAR. STORTI OFFERED NO INFORMATION ON WHETHER HE WOULD LEAVE OFFICE BEFORE CONGRESS, WHAT HE INTENDS TO DO IN THE FUTURE OR WHO HE FAVORS AS SUCCESSOR.

2. COMMENT. FOR THE PRESENT, AT LEAST, THE NAMING OF A SUCCESSOR TO STORTI IS NOT PRESSING SINCE, OF COURSE, HE REMAINS IN OFFICE. HOWEVER, IT WILL NOT BE AN EASY TASK NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME IS AT CISL'S DISPOSAL. WHAT IS REQUIRED IS A REASONABLY YOUNG MAN 1) WHO CAN COMPETE FOR LEADERSHIP OF THE ITALIAN LABOR MOVEMENT WITH COMMUNIST SUPERSTAR LAMA, 2) WHO CAN KEEP A REIN ON THE MILITANT INDUSTRIAL UNIONS, 3) WHO CAN RECONCILE THE FACTIONS WITHIN CISL WHICH REMAIN SPLIT OVER THE BASIC ISSUE OF RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNISTS, AND 4) WHO CAN COMMAND THE SUPPORT OF THE CHRISTIAN
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PAGE 02 ROME 03051 252333Z

DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

3. PIERRE CARNITI IS THE ONLY CANDIDATE WHO CAN REASONABLY FILL THE FIRST REQUIREMENT. HE IS ALSO WELL SUITED TO THE SECOND, BUT IS CERTAINLY NO FAVORITE OF EITHER THE CISL MINORITY OR THE DC. (EXAMPLE: LAMA AND CARNITI, IN RECENT DAYS, HAVE EXCHANGED VIEWS THROUGH THE DAILY PRESS ON THE MORO GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM. LAMA SAYS IT'S NOT THAT THE PROGRAM IS BAD, BUT THAT ITS IMPLEMENTATION OUGHT TO INVOLVE BROADER SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION, I.E., THE COMMUNISTS OUGHT TO BE A PART OF THE PROCESS. CARNITI OPENLY DISAGREES SAYING THAT, WHILE THE PROGRAM MAY NOT BE AS BAD AS THAT OF THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, IT STILL SUFFERS FROM "SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC DISEQUILIBRIUM." THUS THE OSTENSIBLE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT IS MORE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE DC PROGRAM THAN THE COMMUNIST.)

4. DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL MACARIO MIGHT DO FAIRLY WELL AT MEETING THE LAST THREE REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESSION, BUT NOT EVEN HIS BEST FRIENDS SEE HIM AS BEING IN THE SAME LEAGUE WITH LAMA. MOREOVER, HE IS AN OLD 55. MARINI IS IDEALLY SUITED TO RECONCILIATION AND PARTY SUPPORT, BUT, LACKING AN INDUSTRIAL BASE, WOULD NOT CARRY MUCH WEIGHT WITH THE INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED. THIS, IN TURN, WOULD HANDICAP HIM SERIOUSLY IN COMPETING WITH LAMA. PAOLO SARTORI, HEAD OF THE LARGE AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' AFFILIATE, HAS NO PRETENSIONS TO THE TOP LEADERSHIP AND LACKS THE REQUISITE DECISIVENESS.

5. CONCEIVABLY, A CANDIDATE COULD BE FOUND AMONG FORMER CISL LEADERS NOW OUTSIDE LABOR RANKS. AMONG THESE, DC DEPUTY AMOS ZANIBELLI, SARTORI'S PREDECESSOR, WOULD BE THE LEADING POSSIBILITY. ANOTHER WOULD BE BALDASSARE ARMATO, ALSO A DC DEPUTY AND AN IMPLACABLE FOE OF STORTI. HOWEVER, IT IS ALWAYS VERY DIFFICULT FOR A LABOR LEADER, NO MATTER HOW GIFTED, TO RE-ENTER THE LABOR ARENA ONCE HE HAS LEFT IT. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME03051
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760071-1058
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760214/aaaaalxc.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ROME 2942
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <31 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR LEADER STORTI CONFIRMS RETIREMENT
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT, CISL, (STORTI, BRUNO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006